

HIS MAJESTY THE KING DELIVERS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE

London.—Following is the text of a Christmas message broadcast by the King to the British Empire.

It is at Christmas more than at any other time that we are reminded of the dark shadow of our war. Our Christmas festival must lack many of the happy, familiar features that it has had from our earliest childhood. We miss the actual presence of those nearest and dearest without whom our family life cannot be complete.

But, though its outward observance may be limited, the message of Christmas remains eternal and unchanged.

It is a message of thankfulness and of hope of thankfulness is the Almighty for His great mercies of hope for the return to this earth of peace and goodwill to men.

In this spirit, I wish all of you a happy Christmas. This year it adds to our happiness that we are sharing it with many of our comrades in arms from the United States of America.

We welcome them in our homes and their spouses here will not miss a happy memory for us but also, I hope, the sense of enduring understanding which comes from shared recent victories won by the United States enable me, this Christmas, to speak with firm confidence about the future.

On the southern shores of the Mediterranean, the sea and its armies, our fleets and air forces, are now almost everywhere more secure and greatly fortified by the timely and massive expeditionary resources of the United States.

Tremendous blows have been struck by the armies of the Soviet Union, and other forces which cannot be measured on the minds and bodies of the German people.

In the Pacific, we watch with thrilled anticipation the counterattacks of our Australian and American comrades.

India, who is still threatened with Japanese invasion, has been freed from royal fighting men, more than a million strong, to stand at attention to the British army in the defence of India.

We still have tasks ahead of us. Perhaps harder even than those which we have already accomplished. We face these with confidence, for together we stand, together we are stronger, no longer ill-armed, but just as resolute as the darkest hours of our day, whatever comes.

Many of you in my speech are far away overseas. You realize at first hand the importance and meaning of those outposts of empire which the wisdom of our forefathers selected and which your faithfulness will defend.

There are dangers that we should not such and this has opened our eyes to the value of what we might have lost.

You may be serving for the first time in Gibraltar, or Malta, in Cyprus, or India.

Perhaps you are listening to me from Aden, or Syria, or Persia, or Madagascar, or the West Indies. Or you may be in the land of your birth, in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa.

Wherever you are serving in our wide, free commonwealth of nations you will always feel "at home" though severed by long miles of distance. You are still in the family circle, whose life, precious in peaceful years, have been kept in peace by danger.

The Queen and I feel most deeply for all of you who have lost or are parted from your dear ones and our hearts go out to you with sorrow and with comfort but also with pride. We send a special message of remembrance to the wounded and sick, and to the mothers of those who are and to prisoners of war who are enduring their long exile with dignity and courage.

The suffering and hardship shared together have given us a new understanding of each other's needs.

The lessons learned during the four tremendous months behind us have taught us how to work together for victory and we must see to it that we keep together after the war is behind us.

Our visits to war industries in every part of the country, the Queen and I have watched with admiration the steady growth of that vital war production, the fruits of which new forces are being by every branch of our production in all throves of war.

We are thankful for the splendid addition to our food supplies made by those who work on the land and who have made it fertile and prolific. It is never has been before.

Those of you who are carrying out this victory of duty, as willingly undertaken in the service of your country, will I am sure, find new motivations in new friendships and memories long to be cherished in times of peace.

So let us brace and prepare ourselves for the days which lie ahead. Victory will bring us even greater moral responsibilities and we must not be found unequal to a task in

GOT JAP SUB.

R.C.A.F. Plane Drops Bomb Off The
Alaskan Coast

Wash., Dec. 14.—Dropping of a Jap submarine hundreds of miles from the rugged Alaskan coast by an R.C.A.F. plane piloted by P.O. W. E. Thomas, of Toronto, has been revealed here.

A 500-pound bomb was dropped on board of a Jap sub, it is alleged, by a crash dive to safety. The craft was too badly damaged to escape, and Sgt. Robert Gunning, of Pembroke, Ont., the wireless air gunner, signalled the position to naval units which rushed in to find the Albat that remained of the submarine was wreckage.

On sea, on land, in the air and in the air, the presence of a Jap sub and military service is being traced when they could be seen by the design of the picture of the future.

A former president of the United States of America used to tell of a boy who was carrying an even smaller child up an area.

Asked whether the heavy burden was not too much for him, the boy answered, "It's not a burden. It's my brother."

(Abraham Lincoln was the president to whom the King referred.)

So, let us welcome the future of a spirit of brotherhood and thus make a world of which, please God, all may dwell together in justice and in peace.

Prospects For Allied Victory Are Summarized

(By Rear Admiral Yates Stirling, Jr.)

The present situation indicates a high probability that Hitler will lose all Allied air superiority.

Marshall Plan, retreating across Libya and the fact we Tunis and Bizerte seems only a matter of time.

Once the enemy has been driven into the sea, his transports can be bombed mercilessly from the air and he will be unable to advance.

When this has been accomplished, the Allies will be in a position to bring up their advantage by invading Crete.

It required several months for the Allies to plan and execute the North African invasion. It may take even longer to prepare the plan for the final invasion of Europe.

The capture of Crete would give the Royal Navy a base from which to attack the Italian fleet and other allied bases in the Aegean sea would be open to Allied air and sea forces.

The Allies now have surpassed the German in aerial strength and the German in land strength. Hitler expects to see in geometrical ratio, the German in land strength and the Allies in air strength.

Being on interior lines to his enemy he might move his air force from one front to another imperceptibly, but he seems that a total shortage of planes in Germany will prevent him from reinforcing the Mediterranean front sufficiently to meet the disadvantages against him.

This superiority of the Allies over the German in air strength is the direct result of the victory of the Mediterranean from Gibraltar to the Red Sea.

The Mediterranean is further strengthened by the fact that the Italian navy, only a few months ago, has been brought to impotence.

Unless Hitler has more planes in the thousands up his sleeve, he will, as time goes on, become relatively weak.

For their facilities to build planes is steadily increasing while Germany's production already has passed its peak.

Therefore, Germany is on the road to defeat, though it may not come in a day.

FAMOUS GENERAL

Led British Column That Seized The African Corps Of Rommel

Wash., Dec. 14.—A prominent figure of the most famous generals in the world that who led the British column which seized Marshal Rommel's African Corps at the West Wall, was Maj. Gen. Bernard Freyberg, V.C., New Zealand's greatest soldier.

His brilliant movement was carried out by a New Zealand division of Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's army, and the force of all arms supporting them.

Awarded Trophy

A. L. McLean, Ottawa, controller of civil aviation in the department of transport, who has awarded the Trans-Canada Trophy for outstanding service to Canadian aviation, was in the award for the trophy which was donated by the late Jas. D. McKinnon of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Members of the R.C.A.F. are in action along the Pacific coast, in both Canada and Alaska, taking part in coastal patrol and fighting with the U.S. air force in flights over the remote Alaskan island of Kiska, on which the Japanese have landed.

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POULTRY SHIPMENTS

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FARMERS WILL BE ASKED TO REDUCE THEIR WHEAT ACREAGE FOR THE NEXT CROP SEASON

Ottawa.—Acreage reduction is no guarantee of smaller wheat crops, the Dominion bureau of statistics has said in a report on wheat production, but crop conditions next year are not likely to be as favorable as this season and if acreage reduction is carried out next spring the 1943-44 crop year should see an improvement in the wheat situation in North America.

The objective for Canadian agriculture in 1943, including wheat, was outlined at a Dominion provincial conference held in Regina, Sask.

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"Less spectacular results were obtained in Argentina and Australia, but reduced acreage in both countries led to a reduction in wheat production, but crop conditions next year are not likely to be as favorable as this season and if acreage reduction is carried out next spring the 1943-44 crop year should see an improvement in the wheat situation in North America."

"Expressed in round figures, there are about 100,000 acres less in 1942 some 12,000,000 acres less than in 1941 but from this loss there has been a combined wheat crop approximately 350,000,000 bushels greater than that of the previous year."

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